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m
02/20/02 04:55 PM

To: jgreis@fs.fed.us
cc:
Subject: Southern Forest Resource Assessment comments

Mr. John Greis

Dear Mr. John Greis,

We always welcome the opportunity of commenting on proposals of the Forest Service because you are custodians of one of our national treasures. I address now the draft of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment (SFRA). This seems well directed but should include a fuller analysis of ecological and socio-economic sustainability and acknowledge the threat posed by the continued expansion of industrial forestry.

The SFRA fails to project the effect of increasingly intensive use of Southern Forests on broad ecological or socio-economic sustainability, as well as the likely effect on wildlife, water quality, and wetlands.

Also, there appears to be neglect for the growing demand for forest-based recreation and the additional protected land that will be necessary. The draft Assessment leaves these concerns unanswered.

I hope that the final version of the report will address all these concerns: increasingly intensive forest management, the loss of forest land to sprawl, over-harvesting and the conversions to plantation growing. It is even more important now to sustain wildlife habitat, water quality, scenic beauty, recreation, and tourism, as well as the wood products industry.

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Sincerely,

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